

## Something Fishy

A fisheries biologist collected data regarding sizes of catfish and their age. See if you can interpret the data and make some predictions.

Age (years)	Blue Catfish (mm)	Flathead Catfish (mm)
1	69	56
2	115	101
3	160	161
4	205	227
5	244	285
6	278	340
7	305	386
8	336	433
9	366	482

1. Which variable will be the independent and which the dependent?
2. Enter the data and create a scatter plot of the data.
3. Perform a linear curve fit for each data set and write it below.

**Blue catfish**

**Flathead catfish**

4. What unit will the slopes have? What does the slope of these lines really tell you? There is a physical meaning.
5. What does the y intercept really tell you? Think carefully and explain your answer.
6. Predict how big a Flathead catfish would be in 12 years.
7. How long would it take a Blue catfish to reach the length you calculated in #6 above?

modified by Rick Rutland

data taken from *Biology: A Graphing Calculator Approach* by David P. Lawrence